



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

**Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing**



Vol. 18 Issue 349

Jan. 30, 2012

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## Prayer

Lord, I thank You that I am not a spiritual orphan in this world. You didn't abandon me or leave me to figure out everything on my own. You sent the Holy Spirit to be my Teacher and Guide. So right now I open my heart wide to the Holy Spirit, so He can be the Helper You sent Him to be in my life. I give You thanks for sending this divine Helper, and I ask You to teach me how to lean upon Him more and more in the course of my life, in Jesus' name. Amen.....

## Scripture

Exodus 14: 1-31 (AMP)

1 AND THE Lord said to Moses, 2 Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the [Red] Sea, before Baal-zephon. You shall encamp opposite it by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the Israelites, They are entangled in the land; the wilderness has shut them in. 4 I will harden (make stubborn, strong) Pharaoh's heart, that he will pursue them, and I will gain honor and glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord. And they did so. 5 It was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled; and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, What is this we have done? We have let Israel go from serving us! 6 And he made ready his chariots and took his army, 7 And took 600 chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8 The Lord made hard and strong the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the Israelites, for [they] left proudly and defiantly. 9 The Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the [Red] Sea by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon. 10 When Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked up, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and the Israelites were exceedingly frightened and cried out to the Lord. 11 And they said to Moses, Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you treated us this way and brought us out of Egypt? 12 Did we not tell you in Egypt, Let us alone; let us serve the Egyptians? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness. 13 Moses told the people, Fear not; stand still (firm, confident, undismayed) and see the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians you have seen today you shall never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace and remain at rest. 15 The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward! 16 Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the Israelites shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. 17 And I, behold, I will harden (make stubborn and strong) the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall go [into the sea] after them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and horsemen. 18 The Egyptians shall know and realize that I am the Lord when I have gained honor and glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen. 19 And the Angel of God Who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before them and stood behind them, 20 Coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. It was a cloud and darkness to the Egyptians, but it gave light by night to the Israelites; and the one host did not come near the other all night. 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night and made the sea dry land; and the waters were divided. 22 And the Israelites went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 And in the morning watch the Lord through the pillar of fire and cloud looked down on the host of the Egyptians and discomfited [them], 25 And bound (clogged, took off) their chariot wheels, making them drive heavily; and the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians! 26 Then the Lord said to Moses, Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and horsemen. 27 So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its strength and normal flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it [being met by it]; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians and shook them off into the midst of the sea. 28 The waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that pursued them; not even one of them remained. 29 But the Israelites walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea, the

waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. 31 And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did against the Egyptians, and the people [reverently] feared the Lord and trusted in (relied on, remained steadfast to) the Lord and to His servant Moses.

#### Exodus 14. Crossing the Red Sea

The place where they crossed may have been near the location of the Bitter Lakes, now part of the Suez Canal. God used a "strong east wind" to dry up the sea ( v. 21 ). The waters parted and formed a "wall of water" on either side ( 15:8 ; 14:22 ). This, as well as the timing of the waters' return so that the Israelites were saved and the Egyptians destroyed, could have been done only by a direct miraculous act of God. It alarmed the neighboring nations ( 15:14–16 ).

#### Crossing the Sea

The "tongue" of the Gulf of Suez may have reached farther north in Moses' day than it does today. The sea then would have flowed north into the depressions known today as the Bitter Lakes. If a steady wind (v. 21) pushed the shallow water north into the Bitter Lakes, it would have lowered the level of the water so that a land bridge would appear, which is not an uncommon phenomenon. The waters on the north and the south then were a "wall" or "defense." There is no need to assume perpendicular heaps of water defying gravity—although there is no question that God could have done exactly that. The Egyptian pursuit implies that the enemy saw no more than a strange, but not completely unnatural phenomenon. They could not attack from either flank. They followed through the exposed sea mud and were caught and tangled by the returning tide (v. 25) following the relaxed pressure of the wind. (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; pages 143-144)

Crossing The Red Sea; V 15 In other words, there's a time to move. There's a time when we get off of our knees and start moving. God, of course, desires us to pray, at times, but there's also the time when we need to start moving. That's what God said, " hey, why are you crying unto Me? Now's the time to move." V 19 The cloud had been leading them, and now the Lord puts it behind them, and settles it down so that the Egyptians find themselves in a heavy fog. They can't see a thing. The children of Israel are still walking in the light of the pillar of fire, but the cloud is settled on the Egyptians so they don't know what's going on in the camp of Israel. VV 20-22 God deliberately led them into a trap in order that He might manifest unto them His power of delivering them when there was no way of deliverance. God can make a way where there is none. It's marvelous to be led by God. He will never take you down a seemingly dangerous path and desert you, but will provide the way out. " There is no temptation taken unto you but what is common with all men, and God with the temptation will provide the way of escape" ( 1 Corinthians 10:13). V 25 They begin to get bogged down in the mire. V 34 We find here the purposes of God. " The people feared the Lord," or revered the Lord, " and they believed in the Lord." Their faith is growing.(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; Commentaries; page 30)

#### You're Not a Spiritual Orphan!

#### John 14:18

Have you ever felt isolated or alone in this world? If you have, just remember—you are never alone! Imagine how alone the disciples felt when Jesus informed them that He would soon ascend to Heaven and leave them behind on the earth!

What do you think the disciples felt when Jesus told them this? They must have wondered, What will life be like without Jesus? How will we continue without the Master walking right alongside of us? But it was time for Jesus to ascend to the Father and to take His place as our Great High Priest.

It was natural for the disciples to feel sorrowful. To them, it must have seemed like the end of their wonderful encounter with the Lord and with the power of God. Living and walking with Jesus was more than they had ever hoped for in this world. With Jesus at their side, their lives had been filled with adventure, excitement, joy, victory, power, healings, and miracles.

Feelings of insecurity and uncertainty would have been normal for any human beings who found themselves in the disciples' position. They had grown dependent upon the physical, visible presence of Jesus—something we've never experienced and therefore cannot fully comprehend. The thought of Jesus leaving this earth probably made the disciples feel spiritually forsaken and abandoned.

In the midst of these fears, Jesus promised His disciples, "I will not leave you comfortless..." (John 14:18). Today I want us to look at the word "comfortless" in this verse. It is taken from the Greek word orphanos, which is where we get the word orphan. In New Testament times, the word orphanos described children left without a father or mother. In today's world, the word orphan has exactly the same meaning. It refers to a child who is abandoned due to the death or desertion of a father or mother. Once orphaned, the child is deprived of parental care, supervision, and protection—unless that child is placed in the custody of a blood relative or a new guardian who assumes a parental role in that child's life.

However, in New Testament times the word orphanos was also used in a broader sense to describe students who had been abandoned by their teacher. Just as children are dependent on their parents, these students were reliant on their teacher to teach them, to guide them, and to prepare them for life. But once the teacher abandoned them, they felt deserted, forsaken, discarded, and thrown away.

In both cases, the word orphans is used to carry the same idea, whether it refers to children abandoned by their parents or students discarded by their teacher. It gives the picture of younger, less educated, less knowledgeable people feeling deserted by those they trusted and looked to for guidance.

Jesus was a spiritual father to the disciples. He knew they were completely reliant upon Him. They couldn't make it on their own in the world without Him. This is why He promised them, "I will not leave you like orphans."

Jesus' words could be translated to express this idea:

"I will not leave you behind like orphans who have been deserted by their parents, nor will I desert you like an unfaithful teacher who walks out on his students and leaves them with no supervision or help...."

Jesus knew the disciples couldn't make it on their own in the world. That's why He sent the Holy Spirit into the world to be their new Guardian and Teacher.

You can't make it on your own in this world either—but you don't have to, because Jesus did not abandon you! He did not desert you, walk out on you, or throw you away. When He ascended to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to care for you, to guide you, and to teach you. Jesus did not leave you as an orphan in this world!

So meditate on this truth today, and let it sink deep into your heart: I'm not alone! I'm not a spiritual orphan. Jesus has given me the Holy Spirit to comfort, guide, counsel, and strengthen me in every situation of life!

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Can you think of a critical moment in your life when you felt abandoned and alone and turned to God for comfort and support?

What are some of the ways the Father has comforted you in the past?

Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to be your Comforter, Strengtheners, and Guide?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

**Work:** 1Sa 12:18 — So Samuel called to the Lord, and He sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel. Ps 119:120 — My flesh trembles and shudders for fear and reverential, worshipful awe of You, and I am afraid and in dread of Your judgments.

Believed; Ex 4:31 — And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the Israelites, and that He had looked [in compassion] upon their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped. Ex 19:9 — And the Lord said to Moses, Behold, I come to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you and believe you and remain steadfast forever. Then Moses told the words of the people to the Lord.

2Ch 20:20 — And they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and you inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established; believe and remain steadfast to His prophets and you shall prosper. Ps 106:12 — Then [Israel] believed His words [trusting in, relying on them]; they sang His praise. Ps 106:13 — But they hastily forgot His works; they did not [earnestly] wait for His plans [to develop] regarding them, Lk 8:13 — And those upon the rock [are the people] who, when they hear [the Word], receive and welcome it with joy; but these have no root. They believe for a while, and in time of trial and temptation fall away (withdraw and stand aloof).

Jn 2:11 — This, the first of His signs (miracles, wonderworks), Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory [by it He displayed His greatness and His power openly], and His disciples believed in Him [adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Him]. Jn 2:23-25 — But when He was in Jerusalem during the Passover Feast, many believed in His name [identified themselves with His party] after seeing His signs (wonders, miracles) which He was doing. 24 But Jesus [for His part] did not trust Himself to them, because He knew all [men]; 25 And He did not need anyone to bear witness concerning man [needed no evidence from anyone about men], for He Himself knew what was in human nature. [He could read men's hearts.] Jn 8:30-32 — As He said these things, many believed in Him [trusted, relied on, and adhered to Him]. 31 So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples. 32 And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free. Jn 11:45 — Upon seeing what Jesus had done, many of the Jews who had come with Mary believed in Him. [They trusted in Him and adhered to Him and relied on Him.] Ac 8:13 — Even Simon himself believed [he adhered to, trusted in, and relied on the teaching of Philip], and after being baptized, devoted himself constantly to him. And seeing signs and miracles of great power which were being performed, he was utterly amazed.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pgs 108-110) (Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Maps, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)